

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **Date:** November 12, 2013
David Gibson, San Diego Regional Water
Quality Control Board

From: Ali Meeks, Anchor QEA **Project:** 131003-01.02

Cc: Michael Chee, National Steel and Shipbuilding Company
Michael Palmer, de maximis, inc.
David Templeton, Michael Whelan, Adam Gale, and Elizabeth Appy,
Anchor QEA

Re: San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard (Place ID 794466, Order No.
R9-2013-0093) Monthly and Weekly Biological and Environmental Monitoring
Report: October 1 to 31, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The San Diego Bay Environmental Restoration Fund – South (South Trust) is remediating contaminated sediments at the South Shipyard portion of the San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site (Site). Remediation is required to comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R9-2012-0024 issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board 2012a). Biological and environmental monitoring must be conducted during dredging operations to comply with the following:

- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP; Water Board 2012b)
 - Mitigation Measures (MMs) 4.5.3 through 4.5.7 and 4.5.9
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit (USACE IP; 2013)
 - Dredging Condition 16
 - Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Green Sea Turtle Condition 1
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA) Condition 1¹
- Waste Discharge Requirements and Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDR/WQC) Order No. R9-2013-0093 (Water Board 2013)

¹ ESA Condition 1 also requires photographs of the silt curtain and turbidity monitoring observations. This information is provided in a separate water quality report.

- Discharge Requirement VI-C
- Section V-N.10

Anchor QEA was contracted by the South Trust to conduct biological and environmental monitoring. Specific permit and regulation language associated with each biological and environmental element included in the monitoring effort is presented in the Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report for September 29 to October 5, 2013 (Anchor QEA 2013).

This Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report documents biological and environmental monitoring performed at the Site between Tuesday, October 1 and Saturday, November 2, 2013, and as such, it fulfills the monthly monitoring requirements for the month of October as well as the weekly monitoring requirements for October 28 through November 2.

During the month of October, in-water activities included dredging in Sediment Management Units (SMU)-3 and -4. A barge was also moved to SMU-1 to prepare for cement mixing at that location; however, it was determined that sediment mixing will occur at the Sediment Management Area (SMA) instead of at SMU-1 and this barge was subsequently relocated. Site activities at the SMA included pumping water from barges loaded with sediment and from Baker tanks located on the water management barge, mixing dredged material with cement, and offloading dewatered sediment to trucks for transport to the off-site landfill. Potential discharge water was sampled and laboratory analysis indicated no results were greater than permit criteria or local limits, and water was consequently discharged to the sanitary sewer per the discharge permit. No activities occurred at SMU-2.

Water quality monitoring activities, results, and discussion for this reporting period are provided in a separate report.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MONITORING

Contractor Training Log Information (MMRP MMs 4.5.3 and 4.5.6 and WDR/WQC Section VI-C)

Contractor training for protecting eelgrass beds and wildlife species with protected status occurred most recently on October 11. No additional training occurred during this reporting

period. Training will be conducted again in early November or if new crew members are added.

Eelgrass Monitoring (MMRP MM 4.5.4)

SMUs-1 and -2 currently contain eelgrass (Merkel 2013). As previously stated, limited activity occurred in SMU-1, and no activity occurred in SMU-2 during this reporting period. No disturbance to eelgrass was noted.

Green Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Monitoring (MMRP MM 4.5.5 and 4.5.7, WDR/WQC Sections V-N.10 and VI-C, and USACE IP EFH and GST Condition 1)

No green sea turtles or marine mammals were sighted on any day during this reporting period; therefore, no special construction measures were required at this time.

Special Status Bird Monitoring (MMRP MM 4.5.9, WDR/WQC Section VI-C, and USACE IP ESA Condition 1)

Daily Monitoring

No California least terns were observed on any day during the weekly or monthly reporting period. Special status birds observed during daily site activities included California brown pelican and osprey, observed flying over the Site, and double-crested cormorant, observed perched on the timber pier in SMU-1. No disturbance was noted. Details of these observations are presented in Attachment A.

Weekly Monitoring

During the month of October, weekly special status bird monitoring occurred on October 10, 16, 23, and 31. The weekly monitoring event was dedicated specifically to observing (via binoculars) the Site for special status birds. Observations were conducted within monitoring areas as identified on Figure 1, which correspond to approximately 500 feet surrounding anticipated construction activities. No California least terns were observed during weekly monitoring. No disturbance was noted for special status birds, and details of these observations are presented in Attachment A.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS (USACE IP DREDGING CONDITION 16)

All environmental compliance measures described in USACE IP Dredging Condition 16 and other permits are being implemented adequately at the Site.

SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT AREA DISCHARGE MONITORING (USACE IP DREDGING CONDITION 16)

The water management system at the SMA was operational during this reporting period and collected water from the sediment barge, the truck wash, and fractionation tanks located on the dredge and water barges. Water samples were collected from the designated point of compliance at the final fractionation tank in the water management tank series on October 26, and all samples comply with City of San Diego Industrial User Discharge Permit. Water was discharged beginning on October 29 and is expected to continue as needed for the duration of the project, with sampling occurring as required per the Discharge Permit.

REFERENCES

- Anchor QEA, 2013. *Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard*. October 2013.
- Merkel (Merkel & Associates, Inc.), 2013. Pre-Construction Eelgrass Report for the San Diego Shipyard Sediment Matter – Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2012-0024 South Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Project. September 15, 2013.
- USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), 2013. Department of the Army Permit, File No. SPL-2013-00147-RRS. Issued on September 13, 2013.
- Water Board (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region), 2012a. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2012-0024 for the Shipyard Sediment Site. Issued on March 14, 2012.
- Water Board, 2012b. *Final Environmental Impact Report*. March 14, 2012.
- Water Board, 2013. Waste Discharge Requirements for National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair, Inc., San Diego Unified Port District. Order No. R9-2013-0093. San Diego Shipyard Sediment Remediation, San Diego Bay, San Diego, California. Issued on July 10, 2013.
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FIGURE

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ATTACHMENT A
SPECIAL STATUS BIRD MONITORING
DATASHEETS

Daily Special Status Bird Monitoring Form

San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard



Biologist: Ali Meeks	Start Date: 9/30/2013
*Observations are recorded only when special status birds observed.	End Date: 11/2/2013

Observation No.	Date	Time	Special Status Bird Species Observed	No. of Special Status Birds Observed	Location/Behavior/Comments
1	9/30/2013	710	California brown pelican	1	SMU-4, waterward and over barge, flying overhead. No disturbance.
2	9/30/2013	1145	California brown pelican	2	SMU-4, waterward and over barge, flying overhead. No disturbance.
3	10/1/2013	1530	Osprey	1	Alighted on adjacent ship scaffolding, observed, flew away. No disturbance.
4	10/10/2013	900	California brown pelican	1	SMU-1, resting on timber pier. No disturbance.
5	10/15/2013	1425	California brown pelican	1	SMU-4, flying over adjacent ship scaffolding. No disturbance.
6	10/16/2013	810	California brown pelican	1	SMU-2 and -3, flying over adjacent ship. No disturbance.
7	10/18/2013	825	California brown pelican	1	SMU-4, waterward and over barge, flying overhead. No disturbance.
8	10/21/2013	930	California brown pelican	1	SMU-4, over security boom, flying overhead. No disturbance.
9	10/23/2013	1000	California brown pelican	1	SMU -3, flying over water more than 300 feet from shore. No disturbance.
10	10/25/2013	1145	Double-crested cormorant	1	SMU-1, resting on timber pier. No disturbance.
11	10/25/2013	1225	California brown pelican	1	SMU-4, over security boom, flying overhead. No disturbance.

